CLAIMS:

1. An off-hook detecting device (14) which can be connected to a telephone line (TL), for detecting whether a communication arrangement (2), which is connected to the telephone line (TL) in parallel with the off-hook detecting device (14), has accepted an incoming call, comprising a

ringing signal detector (17) for producing ringing signal detection information (RDI) when the ringing signal detector (17) detects a ringing signal in a telephone signal (TS) of the incoming call, and an

off-hook detector (16) for producing first off-hook detection information (ODI1) when the voltage value of the DC component (G(TS)) of the received telephone signal (TS) has dropped below a first off-hook threshold (OSW1), and comprising

off-hook means (18) for accepting the incoming call when, if there is a call accept condition (EBI), the first off-hook detection information (ODI1) does not appear, while the off-hook detecting device (14) is provided for accepting an incoming call for at least a subsequent error period (TF) if the ringing signal detection information (RDI) and the first off-hook detection information (ODI1) appears, in essence, at the same time, even when the call accept condition (EBI) and the first off-hook detection information (ODI1) for accepting an incoming call is present at the same time.

2. An off-hook device (14) as claimed in claim 1, in which the off-hook detector (16) is arranged for producing second off-hook detection information (ODI2) when the voltage value of the DC component (G(TS)) of the received telephone signal (TS) has dropped below a second off-hook threshold (OSW2) and in which the off-hook means (18) are arranged for transferring the already accepted call to the parallel-connected communication arrangement (2) when after the acceptance of the incoming call the second off-hook detection information (ODI2) is present and in which, however, at least during the error period (TF) or even when the second off-hook detection information (ODI2) is present, the already accepted call is not transferred from the off-hook device (14) to the parallel-connected communication arrangement (2).

3. An off-hook device (14) as claimed in claim 1, in which threshold adaptation means (20) are provided which are arranged for analyzing the time-dependent waveform of the voltage value of the DC component (G(TS)) of the telephone signal (TS) during an analysis period and as a result of the analysis is arranged for adapting the first off-hook threshold (OSW1) and the second off-hook threshold (OSW2), to enable a reliable detection of the acceptance of the incoming call by the parallel-connected communication arrangement (2).

4. An off-hook device (14) as claimed in claim 1, in which the next separation of the off-hook device (14) from the power supply is determined to be the end of the error period (TF).

5. An off-hook device (14) as claimed in claim 1, in which the off-hook means (18) are arranged for checking the presence of the call accept condition (EBI) which is present when N ringing signal pulses (RSI) are detected in the ringing signal of the incoming call.

6. An off-hook device 14 as claimed in claim 1, in which the off-hook detector (16) includes a voltage comparator for comparing the voltage value of the DC component (G(TS)) of the telephone signal (TS) with the voltage value of the first off-hook threshold (OSW1) or the second off-hook threshold (OSW2), respectively.

7. A method of checking whether a communication arrangement (2), which is connected to a telephone line (TL) in parallel with an off-hook device (14) implementing the method, has accepted an incoming call, in which method the following steps are executed:

producing ringing signal detection information (RDI) when a ringing signal is detected in a telephone signal (TS) of the incoming call;

producing first off-hook detection information (ODI1) when the voltage value of the DC component (G(TS)) of the received telephone signal (TS) has dropped below a first off-hook threshold (OSW1);

accepting the incoming call if, after the condition of call acceptance (EBI) is present, the first off-hook detection information (ODI1) is not present, whereas an incoming call is taken when the ringing signal detection information (RDI) and the first off-hook detection information (ODI1) is present at the same time for at least a subsequent error period

(TF), even when the condition of call acceptance (EBI) and the first off-hook detection information (ODI1) appears at the same time.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, in which second off-hook detection information (ODI2) is produced when the voltage value of the DC component (G(TS)) of the received telephone signal (TS) has dropped below a second off-hook threshold (OSW2) and in which an already taken call is transferred to the parallel-connected communication arrangement (2) when after the acceptance of the incoming call the second off-hook detection information (ODI2) is present while, however, at least during the error period (TF) the already taken call is not transferred to the parallel-connected communication arrangement (2) even when the second off-hook detection information (ODI2) is present.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7, in which during an analysis period the time-dependent waveform of the voltage value of the DC component (G(TS)) of the telephone signal (TS) is analyzed and, as a result of the analysis, the first off-hook threshold (OSW1) and the second off-hook threshold (OSW2) are adapted for reliably detecting the acceptance of the incoming call by the parallel-connected communication arrangement (2).

10. A first facsimile machine (1) which can be connected to a telephone line (TL) for communication with another, second facsimile machine (4) connected to a telephone line (TL), and comprising transceiver means (13, 15) for transmitting and receiving fax data (FD) which correspond to a fax protocol, in which an off-hook device (14) as claimed in claim 1 is provided for detecting whether a communication arrangement (2) connected to the telephone line (TL) in parallel with the first facsimile machine (1) has taken an incoming call.

11. A first facsimile machine (1) as claimed in claim 10 in which display means (19) are provided for displaying a warning signal during the error period (TF).